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WAYLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1938

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1938.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health (part time Officer) and two Sanitary Inspectors (whole time Officers) and contribution is made under the Public Health Acts to their salaries. The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Building Surveyor to the Council; holds the Certificates of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspector and Meat and other Foods Inspector, is a Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, and a Registered Architect. The additional Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Examination Board.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	106,881
Estimated Population 1938	16,050
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	5,100
Rateable value	£42,856
Sum represented by a penny rate	£186

There are 35 Parishes in the District and 3 Market Towns, Attleborough, Watton and East Harling. The chief industry is Agricultural; at Attleborough there is a Cyder Factory employing about 300 persons.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.		TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	203	101	102
	Illegitimate	12	10	2
Still Births		9	5	4
DEATHS.		TOTAL.	M.	F.
		203	94	109

BIRTH RATE per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.39

Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births 40.17

DEATH RATE per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... 12.65

Deaths from puerperal causes.

		Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
No. 29.	Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30.	Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total		Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants	per 1000 live births	27.99
Legitimate Infants	,, legitimate live births ...	24.63
Illegitimate Infants	,, illegitimate live births ...	83.33
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		28
,, ,, Measles (all ages)		1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil

Section B. **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

I (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. Arrangements are made for any chemical work, analysis, etc., to be carried out at the County Laboratory, Norwich. An arrangement has been made by the County Council with the Public Analyst, Mr. W. Lincolne Sutton, for the examination of all samples of drinking water.

I (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases. The Ambulance attached to the Norfolk County Council Isolation Hospital at Dereham is available for use in this District for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease. The removal of patients by this Ambulance has been accomplished with promptness and efficiency.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases, an Ambulance stationed at Attleborough is available.

I (c) NURSING IN THE HOME. Nature of arrangement in the area.

(a) General. No nursing is provided by the County Council or by the Local Authority. There are seven District Nurses employed who work in about twenty parishes.

(b) Infectious Diseases. There is no provision made.

I (d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES. These are administered by the County Council.

I (e) HOSPITALS.

(a) Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. During the year under review the new Norfolk County Council Isolation Hospital at Dereham was opened; the arrangement between this Council and the Forehoe & Henstead Council for the treatment of Infectious Disease patients at the Wicklewood Isolation Hospital was then terminated and all patients in need of hospital treatment are now sent to Dereham.

(b) Smallpox. During the present year the Norfolk County Council have also undertaken the responsibility for the treatment of persons suffering from smallpox. The wooden building at Old Buckenham maintained by this Council for the isolation of such patients will not, therefore, be required in future.

Section C. **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

I (i) WATER. During the year the two 14 inch diameter bores at Bury's Hall, Old Buckenham, were completed for supplying water to the Parishes of Attleborough, Old Buckenham, New Buckenham, Banham, North Lopham, South Lopham, Garboldisham, Blo' Norton and Harling. These bores were sunk to a depth of 500 feet and yield a supply of water of 10,500 gallons per hour. The cost of the two bores was approximately £1,600.

WATTON. Two 12 inch bores were sunk to a depth of 300 feet for supplying water in the Parish of Watton and to the new Aerodrome at Carbrooke. The pumping machinery, consisting of two 14 b.h.p. Lister Diesel Engines and pumps, were fixed during the year and a supply of water was delivered to the Aerodrome at the end of September. The erection of the Engine House has been commenced and tenders received for the laying of the water mains and the erection of a water tower to hold 62,000 gallons.

CROXTON. The scheme for supplying water to the village of Croxton has been completed; 46 houses, 3 farms and the School being supplied with water. The cost of the scheme was £850.

I (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The scheme for sewering a part of Attleborough Town and also for taking the trade waste from the Cyder Factory, was completed during the year at a cost of £13,000. The drainage from approximately 150 houses being connected up to the new Sewage Disposal Works.

WATTON. During the dry period pumping of the effluent from the sewage tanks on to adjoining land was again resorted to, thus removing any danger of a nuisance arising from the river.

III (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Where insanitary privies are found, these are converted into the pail system. There are about 2370 earth closets and 350 water closets in the District.

III (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

ATTLEBOROUGH. The scheme for the weekly removal of house refuse and excreta has continued successfully throughout the year. All the refuse is disposed of by the contractor by ploughing into his agricultural land.

WATTON. No change has been made in the arrangements for the removal of house refuse and excreta. The house refuse is disposed of by a method of controlled tipping.

III (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received	20
Number of Inspections	1267
,, Preliminary Notices	29
,, Statutory Notices	36
,, Houses Repaired	6
,, Inspections of Slaughterhouses ...	66
,, ,, Bakehouses	12
,, ,, Dairies and Milk Shops ...	82
,, ,, Cowsheds	179
,, ,, Workshops	49

Nuisances Abated :—

Pails substituted for vaults	1
Accumulation of refuse	2
Drains repaired or provided	50
W.C.'s provided	1
Other nuisances and defects	18
Slaughterhouse nuisances	1
Cowsheds limewashed and other nuisances remedied	7
New floors to Cowsheds	10
Bakehouses limewashed	2
Samples of water taken	4
Houses disinfected	26
Schools disinfected	Nil

III (iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspections of shops and offices with regard to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, have been carried out; the conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

III (v) CAMPING SITES.

There are no sites in the Area which are used for camping purposes and no applications have been received for licences to allow any land to be so used.

IV. SCHOOLS. There are thirty-two Elementary Schools in the District, including an Area School at Old Buckenham, recently erected and designed on modern principles. The sanitary conditions and water supplies are generally quite satisfactory.

Section D. **Housing.**

STATISTICS. Number of new Houses erected during the year:

(a)	Total (number given separately under (b))	64
(b)	(i) By Local Authorities	42
	(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
	(iii) By other Persons	22

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(i) (a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	176
(b)	Number of Inspections made	249
(ii) (a)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	75
(b)	Number of Inspections made	134
(iii)	Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
(iv)	Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
	(a) By Owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, including Houses in Clearance Areas	31
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9
	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished voluntarily	Nil
	Number of Dwelling Houses undertakings accepted by the Council ...	2

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936. OVERCROWDING:-

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	45
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	47
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	340
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	9
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	37
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	247

Clearance Areas.

During the year Clearance Orders were made as stated below and submitted to the Minister of Health, who confirmed same:

	Area.	No. of Houses in area	No. of Persons to be displaced
Attleborough, Millers Square	Clearance Area M.	13	34
Attleborough, Spread Eagle Yard	,, ,, N.	5	5
		18	39

Housing (Rural Workers' Act) 1926.

Three applications were received for assistance under this Act during the year, and grants were made by the Council in two cases, one application being refused.

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A). MILK SUPPLY. There are 235 Registered Cow-keepers, 48 Wholesale Producers of Milk, 94 Cow-keepers and Retailers of Milk, 93 Cow-keepers and Dairymen. In addition, 9 Retailers of Milk who purchase their supplies.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936. The District Council acted as Agents for the County Council in carrying out certain provisions under this order.

There are 38 Producers in this area licenced to produce milk as Accredited, and one Producer was granted a licence to sell Milk as Accredited.

Two Dealer's Supplementary Licences were issued by the District Council.

(B). MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are 26 Slaughter-houses in the District, 15 of which are registered and 11 licenced. 21 Butchers' shops have proper refrigerators for storing Meat during hot weather.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)		Not known			
Number inspected	58	5	11	79	261
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	1.7	—	—	—	1.5
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemed ...	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.1	—	—	—	3

(C). ADULTERATION, ETC. The County Council admisters the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

Section F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

II. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	29	5	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
Pneumonia	14	—	5
Erysipelas	6	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—

There have been sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever to the number of 29 in the whole Area throughout the year, but there has not been anything approaching even a small epidemic in any part of the District.

On my recommendation a scheme of general immunisation against Diphtheria was instituted by the Council. This scheme was to supply free immunisation to all persons in the district by their own medical practitioner at his surgery or, in special circumstances, at the patients home.

This scheme was to be brought into operation as soon as was practicable and posters have been issued to make the matter public. It has also been decided to enlist the services of the School Medical Officers and Teachers to further publicise the scheme.

4 (c) Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
15	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---
25	1	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
35	2	---	---	---	1	1	---	---
45	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---
55	2	---	---	1	2	---	---	---
65 and upwards	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	1
Total	6	—	1	1	3	4	—	1

No action was necessary under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Extract from Report relating to administration of Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, forwarded to Secretary of State, Home Office.

1. Inspections

Premises	Inspections	Notices
Factories	15	—
Workshops and Workplaces ...	49	1

2. Defects found

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	2	2
Other nuisances	—	—

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
F. R. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

East Harling,
1st August, 1939.

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